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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**THREE CRAWFORD COUNTY MEN INDICTED ON
METH TRAFFICKING AND FIREARMS CHARGES**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that JOHN G. VAUSHA, JR. 52, JOHN G. VAUSHA, III, 31, and JOSHUA KNOWLES, 27, all of Taswell, Indiana, were charged today in separate indictments by a federal grand jury sitting in Indianapolis in connection with a firearms and methamphetamine trafficking investigation conducted by the Indiana State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives in Louisville, Kentucky.

The five-count indictment against JOHN G. VAUSHA, JR. alleges he distributed 3 and 6 gram quantities of methamphetamine on December 4 and December 10, 2003, respectively. During an undercover investigation, Indiana State Police detectives purchased

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methamphetamine from VAUSHA, JR. as well as numerous firearms. Two counts charge VAUSHA, JR. with being a felon in possession of firearms, when, on December 4 and 10, 2003, the indictment alleges VAUSHA, JR. possessed a total of 12 firearms. VAUSHA, JR. could not lawfully possess these firearms, because, the indictment alleges, in October, 1976, he was convicted of entering to commit a felony in the Harrison County Circuit Court and sentenced to 1-5 years imprisonment. On January 7, 2004, law enforcement officers executed a search warrant on VAUSHA, JR.s property and discovered an additional 15 firearms, which the indictment also alleges VAUSHA, JR. possessed.

The three-count indictment against JOSHUA KNOWLES alleges he distributed 3 and 5 gram quantities of methamphetamine on October 30 and November 6, 2003. KNOWLES is also charged with possessing a sawed-off shotgun, which was retrieved by police from his residence on January 7, 2004, during the execution of a search warrant.

Finally, JOHN G. VAUSHA, III was indicted for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The indictment alleges that VAUSHA III possessed a .22 rifle on December 2, 2003. VAUSHA III, the indictment alleges, had been convicted of Conspiracy to Commit Murder in Clark County, Indiana in 1994. The firearm was purportedly purchased from VAUSHA III by undercover State Police officers.

According to First Assistant United States Attorney Timothy M. Morrison, who is prosecuting the case for the government, VAUSHA, JR. and KNOWLES face a maximum of

20 years imprisonment on each count of distribution of methamphetamine and a maximum possible fine of \$1,000,000. VAUSHA, JR., VAUSHA III, and KNOWLES each face a maximum 10 years imprisonment and a maximum possible fine of \$250,000 for each firearms count. Vausha, Jr. was ordered detained by a U.S. Magistrate Judge, Vausha, III is in state custody, and Knowles is on pretrial release. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in New Albany.

The indictment is an allegation only, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.

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